

**MADISON COUNTY LEPC
(Local Emergency Planning Committee)**

AGENDA

November 15, 2007 7:00 PM
Madison County Courthouse
Virginia City, MT

CHAIRMAN/VICE-CHAIRMAN Wayne called the meeting to order @ 7:00pm

Identification of attendees

Scott McClintic
Shawn Christensen
Joe Husar
Wayne Redfield
Melinda Tichenor
Chris Orr
Steve Orr
John Bancroft
Steve DiGiovanna
Chris Mumme

Resolution of pending organizational matters- none

Approval of Minutes

Scott moved seconded by Shawn to accept the minutes of the October 18, 2007

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **LEPC Chairman Report (Wayne Redfield)**
Nothing to report
- **Citizens Corp Council Report (M. Tichenor)**

Brief from the November 8th Citizen Corps Council meeting

The Virginia City CERT class had expenses totaling \$835.75. We applied to the state for a \$500 emergency preparedness grant. Chris reported that all funds that are not spent in the current fiscal year will revert back to the general county funds even if they are ones that were raised by the group and not part of the county budget. It was decided to purchase some hats as identification as well as a reward for those active in the CERT program within the county. We will also look into getting a storage shed or trailer to put the extra CERT kits and the training equipment.

Melinda will contact Naomi Abbott (Sheridan) and Trent Biggers (Harrison) to work on setting dates for the spring CERT classes in their communities. She will talk to Charlie Hansen and see if he would prefer them together or separated somewhat.

It was decided that we would not set up a table at the bazaar in Ennis this year.

We discussed some of the personal paperwork that should be in your 72 hour kit. Wills, copies of account #'s for all financial and insurance files, copies of prescriptions and other identification. Dave mentioned there is a computer program that will identify where your important papers are and the contents if there should be an untimely death of those that know.

Steve Orr, Chris Mumme, Tom and Sheri Luksha attended the Map Your Neighborhood train the trainer course in Helena recently. Steve presented the 9 steps to the program and will present the information to the LEPC on the 15th of November. The program could be organized to start with by having the CERT members coordinate the mapping of their neighborhoods. The training class last for 90 minutes and defines a neighborhood as the number of houses you can walk to and check on in one hour. This is usually 15 to 20 houses. We will decide on the action to take after the LEPC meeting.

Wayne – He would like to have a short table top discussion of an incident at each LEPC meeting in order to have a short training at each meeting. After a brief discussion it was decided that we could go over the recent ICS table top at the next meeting.

Steve – Scott Peterson is working on a way to have Steve present his Traffic control training to other CERT groups around the state.

Melinda – The Madison Valley Hospital staff is starting to plan a Community Health Fair for the Spring and would welcome any and all assistance in the planning and execution of the fair. There is an initial planning meeting on Thursday morning at 7:00 am in the Boardroom of the Madison Valley Hospital.

There are 10 and maybe 12 people signed up for the PIO training the end of November

It was discussed at the last LEPC meeting about some sort of ID card for volunteer responders so the law enforcement and others charged with security of a scene would recognize those that have training to assist them. Wayne mentioned that he reduced his CERT certificate to a wallet size and can present that if it were needed. We also discussed making name badges for people to put in their CERT kits for identification.

Dec 13 7:00 pm in Virginia City at the Courthouse if there are not seasonal conflicts

Emergency Management Dept. Report (C. Mumme)
Director, Emergency Management
Report to LEPC
(11-15-07)

Considering that there are approximately 3,528 square miles in Madison County and 519 are unassigned to fire districts, one of my first projects as Director of Emergency Management was to supply fire suppression to the areas that are unassigned to any fire district.

As the county continues to grow and new structures are being built throughout these areas, the burden to the tax payer, as well as to the fire departments, increases. Tackling this very important problem, the Virginia City Fire Department, Alder Fire Department, Commissioners and the Department of Emergency Management, met to initiate a plan to properly divide the area surrounding Virginia City. V.C. and Alder fire departments agreed on a plan and have successfully divided the 97 square miles of unprotected area into two fire districts.

To accomplish this task, the Alder Fire District, having already been established, would annex in the area they have chosen for their district using the MCA: 7-33-2125. VC on the other hand, will be forming anew district under MCA: 7-33-2101, 2102 and 2103. These sites can be found on the Montana Web Site under Montana Annotated.

Both Alder and VC Fire Departments have been taking petitions around to the various owners for signature. Once we have enough signatures the petitions will be taken to the Commission and a hearing set up at a future date.

Once this phase of district forming is established and completed there are other areas such as Sheridan, South Boulder, etc. will be addressed until a very large portion of the unassigned areas are covered.

The Madison County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) was activated again after a water main was damaged by MasTech Construction crew in Sheridan. The CERT provided aid in distributing information for a boil order and locations where citizens of Sheridan could pick up potable water. Once again the team was very successful in their mission. Dept of Environmental Quality (DEQ) required a mandatory boil order for the town. Providing door-to-door information to each individual in town is a large endeavor and the CERT was up to the task. The CERT has up to 82 members at this time and would welcome more. For more information about CERT, please call Melinda Tichenor 581 -5716.

You may have noticed the presence of Frank Ford, or lack thereof, has been caused by his decision to retire. Yes, Frank will be sorely missed and Frank has left very big shoes to fill. His position as Communications Coordinator has been filled by none other than Steve DiGiovanna. Steve spent 32 years as a career fire fighter in Los Angeles and San Diego County. Steve's Montana native wife (Becky) requested a move back to Montana after he retired. Steve and his family now reside in Sheridan. He has worked as a Sheriffs office relief dispatcher for nearly 2 years. Steve is now my backup in the DES department (DES 2) and I am his backup in the communication department.

Though our primary duties are DES (Chris) and Communications (Steve), a degree of cross departmental understanding may serve the county well in the event that either of us are incapacitated, out of the area, or there are multiple or major incidents occurring in our county.

Other items:

- The false alarm ordinance is presently being written by me and will go through the legal channels before adopted.
- Joe Husar and I met and we went over the sub division regulations that we want to implement into our fuel mitigation program. This document is also being written presently and will be brought forth to the LEPC for initial approval
- My department is in the process of submitting a pre-app for the PDM grant for planning and also operations/equipment. Steve DiGiovanna and I are in the process of writing up the pre-app for an alternate E.O.C. and hopefully fully equipping it.
- Joe Husar's Risk Mitigation contract has been extended until the end of FY'08, this was to achieve a more uniform financial tracking system.
- The IMT core group has met five (5) times already and is making great progress in setting up our Standard Operating Procedures. Steve DiGiovanna will be responsible for the training, Steve Orr (procurement), Jill Steeley/Chris Mumme (presentations) and myself funding/accounting.

Christopher W. Mumme
Director, Emergency Management

Communications Coordinator Report (Steve DiGiovanna)

WHAT IS OUR PRIORITY ?

Madison County
Communications Department
November 2007

By Steve DiGiovanna - Communication Coordinator

The Madison County Courthouse is one of the most unique and picturesque buildings I have ever seen as a county administrative center. I remember the first time I saw it nearly 18 years ago. I stopped the car, got out and immediately snapped off a whole roll of Kodak 35mm pictures. Little did I expect that 16 years later I would be working in the very building I so strongly admired. There are a lot of things that are "right" about this building and this location. One may occasionally take it for granted, but aesthetically - and in the realm of wild west ambiance - it is inside and out - one of the finest county facilities around.

A CONCERN - purely from a "Communication perspective" there are a couple of issues that raise a red flag. Communication survivability is of primary concern. If this building suffers any type of substantial fire or earthquake damage - county communications (phone systems, ambulance, fire, and police service) are all but finished. Dispatch won't be able to communicate with anyone - everything from the dispatch radio system to every telephone in the building is done - kaput - over and out. Basically, Communications no longer exists.

SABOTAGE (and I am avoiding specifics intentionally) the sabotage perspective is a valid concern. Homegrown terrorism, disgruntled citizens and county wide system vulnerability are also worrisome concepts.

But back to the main premise - the Communication Center sits in the basement of a 3 story, unreinforced masonry building. The very type of building most prone to damage during a significant seismic event. Since Madison County is located smack in the middle of one of the most seismic active areas in North America. It is a vast understatement to say this scenario is merely a vague possibility. (and please don't remind me of the '59 quake - it was 60 miles from here and the building was 50 years younger)

REALITY CHECK - no, I don't expect - nor envision the courthouse being a big pile of smoking debris any time soon - though this is certainly a possibility. But a more realistic scenario unfolds like this..... a moderate earthquake strikes nearby - and renders the building "untenable" - evacuated until it can be evaluated and (possibly) repaired.

The end result is the same as "a smoking pile of bricks" - the communication center is now unusable - and we instantly have no radio communications and no 911 phone service. Nobody can call our county 911 for help.

NOTIFICATIONS - there would be no way to notify (page) our fire departments, ambulance services or our deputies of where their emergency assistance is needed - absolutely no acceptable way to radio them, no way to dispatch them and no adequate way to communicate with them. Even the cell phones in your pocket offer no acceptable benefit.

NOW WHAT? Awareness is one of the first steps on the road to problem mitigation and prevention. From a communication point of view, communication survivability and a redundant, backup dispatch alternative in VC seems to be one of our very first priorities.

Did you know???

Madison County Communications Officers average approximately 2752 telephone interactions per month (688 per week) or about 33,000 phone interactions each year !
Madison County Communications Officers average approximately 972 radio interactions per week (3888 per month) or approximately 46,656 radio interactions per year!

“Providing direction to Madison County Emergency Services“

OLD BUSINESS

➤ PDM Review

Julie, Barbie and Chris are preparing a planning grant application with FEMA for an alternative EOC and county dispatch. Steve and Chris are working on the pre-application which is due by November 30th. The grant application is due the end of January.

NEW BUSINESS

➤ Mapping Your Neighborhood

Steve Orr reported there are 9 steps to be taken in an emergency that are taught in the class. The class is a 90 minute mini CERT class. He defined a neighborhood and talked about the CERT members starting the program. It may be a good idea for home owners associations to require the mapping by the associations. The organization of the neighborhoods needs to be a grass roots campaign. Chris and Melinda will meet to discuss the plan of getting started.

➤ IMT committee

The steering committee for the IMT will be working on getting more of the team trained. The entire group will be a resource for the ICS team in an event and will not come and take over. The concept of the IMT has been approved by the commissioners and the LEPC. The entire team would be made up of 10-15 people from both sides of the “spine”. The rest of the team will need to be prepared to have monthly trainings, other specific classes, able to be called out for 72 hours at a time possibly, and may be activated 4-6 times a year. Any one interested needs to contact Chris or Steve.

Wayne would like to have a small table top exercise at the LEPC meetings so there would be some training involved during the meetings in hopes of getting more of the responding units to attend the meetings. Each group is to come up with a scenario to be ready for their turn. Maybe it would work to have more specific county wide trainings between departments. Maybe a BBQ in the Spring for all department members to get to know one another.

The question was asked again who the LEPC is. Chris will e-mail his list. Steve Orr gave a short history of the LEPC and the PDM.

It was decided to rotate where the LEPC meetings are held to encourage more attendance from other units. Chris will check with the town of Sheridan to have the meeting there in January.

The mobile command unit is ready to be picked up in Kalispell after the 30th of November. Shawn and Chris will get it. John Bancroft offered to help if that was needed. Madison Valley rural has offered to house the unit and supply a 100 wt radio for the truck.

Joe will try to find out about the radio station that the Harrison School is applying for. This may be a real resource for informing the public in an emergency.

SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING – Next meeting will be Jan 17th in an alternative site

ADJOURN @ 2050